

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 M-03

A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-20 PC-15 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 221805 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5129

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7352

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: COMMUNAL TENSION IN DELHI

REF: NEW DELHI 7044

SUMMARY: SINCE JUNE 12 RIOTING (REFTTEL), THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCH INCIDENTS IN DELHI. SITUATION IS OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS UNDER CONTROL, BUT NORMALCY HAS YET TO RETURN. NOW SUSPENDED JANA SANGH AGITATION ON RIOTS ISSUE IS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING TENSION. MINOR COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NEARBY MORADABAD. END SUMMARY.

1. NIGHT CURFEW IN RIOT- HIT AREAS OF OLD DELHI (REFTTEL) CONTINUES, AS DOES HEAVY POLICE CLAMPDOWN-- INCLUDING DEPLOYMENT OF " PARA-MILITARY BORDER SECURITY FORCES"-- IN CITY' S TROUBLE- PRONE AREAS. OFFICIAL SOURCES STATE 1,334 HAVE BEEN HELD IN CONNECTION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIOTS, MOSTLY ANTI- SOCIAL ELEMENTS DETAINED AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

2. HINDU- NATIONALIST JANA SANGH PARTY, WHICH LOST HEAVILY IN LAST YEAR' S ELECTIONS, IS OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO CAPITALIZE ON SITUATION. IT LAUNCHED AGITATION ON JUNE 16 TO PRESS FOR A JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE RIOTS. GOI ADMINISTRATION IS ALLERGIC TO PROBES INTO COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES WHICH MIGHT APPORTION BLAME AND FURTHER INFLAME PASSIONS. JANA SANGH' S SECOND MAJOR DEMAND IS FULL COMPENSATION FOR RIOT- AFFECTED TRADERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE HINDUS.

3. JANA SANGH AGITATION INCLUDED DEFIANCE OF PROHIBITORY ORDERS ON MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS, PROMULGATED IN WAKE OF RIOTS. PARTY DESCRIBED AGITATION AS " PEACEFUL COURTING OF ARREST", BUT ON TWO OF THREE OCCASIONS IT TURNED VIOLENT WITH PARTY MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS TURNING THEIR WRATH ON POLICE. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD DAILY IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF DELHI, INCLUDING AREAS OF HINDU- MUSLIM TENSION. ON JUNE 19, JANA SANGH, FOLLOWING TALKS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SUSPENDED AGITATION UNTIL JUNE 24.

4. IN RURAL AREAS OF MORADAKBAD DISTRICT (UTTAR PRADESH), ABOUT 100 MILES EAST OF DELHI, SMALL- SCALE COMMUNAL DISTRUBANCES WERE REPORTED JUNE 17. EIGHT WERE INJURED BEFORE ORDER WAS RESTORED. RIOT- PRONE MORADABAD HAS SECOND- HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIMS AMONG UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICTS; UNLIKE DELHI, MANY BUSINESSMEN THERE ARE MUSLIMS.
SCHNEIDER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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